

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Original) An isolated proteinase inhibitor II nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or a nucleotide sequence that encodes SaPIN2a having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
2. (Withdrawn) An isolated proteinase inhibitor II nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, or a nucleotide sequence that encodes SaPIN2b having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.
3. (Cancelled).
4. (Withdrawn) An isolated nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the complement of a proteinase inhibitor II nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, wherein the stringent conditions comprise hybridization in 50% deionized formamide, 6xSSC, 5x Denhardt's, 1% SDS, 100 µg/ml denatured salmon sperm DNA at 42°C, and washing in 0.1xSSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C, and wherein the nucleotide sequence encodes a protein having proteinase inhibitor activity.
5. (Withdrawn) An isolated polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or a fragment thereof having proteinase inhibitor activity.
6. (Withdrawn) An isolated polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4, or a fragment thereof having proteinase inhibitor activity.
7. (Withdrawn) An isolated polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of claim 3 or 4, or a fragment thereof having proteinase inhibitor activity.

8. (Currently amended) A method for producing a transformed plant comprising: (i) transforming a plant with ~~[[a]]~~ a polynucleotide that comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and (ii) selecting a transformed plant in which said nucleotide sequence is expressed.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein said transforming is by nuclear transformation.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein said transforming is by plastid transformation.

11. (Currently amended) A method for producing a transformed plant comprising: (i) transforming a plant by plastid transformation with a polynucleotide that comprises a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the complement of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 ~~or SEQ ID NO:3~~, wherein the stringent conditions comprise hybridization in 50% deionized formamide, 6xSSC, 5x Denhardt's, 1% SDS, 100 µg/ml denatured salmon sperm DNA at 42°C, and washing in 0.1xSSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C, and wherein the nucleotide sequence encodes a protein having proteinase inhibitor II activity; and (ii) selecting a transformed plant in which said nucleotide sequence is expressed.

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Previously Presented) The method of any of claims 8 or 11, wherein an endogenous proteinase activity of the transformed plant is inhibited.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the endogenous protease activity is a trypsin-like activity or chymotrypsin-like activity.

16. (Currently amended) A method for inhibiting programmed cell death and senescence in a transformed plant or plant part comprising: (i) transforming a plant with [[a]] a polynucleotide that comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and (ii) selecting a transformed plant in which said polynucleotide is expressed.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said transforming is by nuclear transformation.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said transforming is by plastid transformation.

19. (Currently amended) A method for inhibiting programmed cell death and senescence in a transformed plant or plant part comprising: (i) transforming a plant by plastid transformation with a recombinant vector comprising a polynucleotide that comprises a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the complement of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 wherein the stringent conditions comprise hybridization in 50% deionized formamide, 6xSSC, 5x Denhardt's, 1% SDS, 100 µg/ml denatured salmon sperm DNA at 42°C, and washing in 0.1xSSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C, and wherein the nucleotide sequence encodes a protein having proteinase inhibitor II activity; and (ii) selecting a transformed plant in which said polynucleotide is expressed.

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Currently amended) The method of any of claims 16 or [[17]] 19, wherein an endogenous proteinase activity of the transformed plant is inhibited.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the endogenous proteinase activity is a trypsin-like activity or chymotrypsin-like activity.

24. (Currently amended) A method for producing a heterologous protein in a plant comprising: (i) transforming a plant with [(a)] a first polynucleotide that comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; (ii) transforming the plant with a second polynucleotide that encodes a heterologous protein; and (iii) isolating said heterologous protein.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said transforming is by nuclear transformation.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said transforming is by plastid transformation.

27. (Currently amended) A method for producing a heterologous protein in a plant comprising: (i) transforming a plant by plastid transformation with a recombinant vector comprising a polynucleotide that comprises a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the complement of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the stringent conditions comprise hybridization in 50% deionized formamide, 6xSSC, 5x Denhardt's, 1% SDS, 100 µg/ml denatured salmon sperm DNA at 42°C, and washing in 0.1xSSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C, and wherein the nucleotide sequence encodes a protein having proteinase inhibitor II activity; (ii) transforming the plant with a second polynucleotide that encodes a heterologous protein; and (iii) isolating said heterologous protein.

28. (Cancelled).

29. (Cancelled).

30. (Currently amended) A transformed plant produced by the steps of: (i) transforming a plant with a recombinant vector comprising [[a)] a polynucleotide that comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and (ii) selecting a transformed plant in which said polynucleotide is expressed.

31. (Previously Presented) The transformed plant of claim 30, which is a transgenic plant.

32. (Previously Presented) The transformed plant of claim 30, which is a transplastomic plant.

33. (Currently amended) A transformed plant produced by the steps of: (i) transforming a plant by plastid transformation with a recombinant vector comprising a polynucleotide that comprises a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the complement of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the stringent conditions comprise hybridization in 50% deionized formamide, 6xSSC, 5x Denhardt's, 1% SDS, 100 µg/ml denatured salmon sperm DNA at 42°C, and washing in 0.1xSSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C, and wherein the nucleotide sequence encodes a protein having proteinase inhibitor II activity; and (ii) selecting a transformed plant in which said polynucleotide is expressed.

34. (Cancelled).

35. (Cancelled).

36. (Previously presented) A transformed plant comprising a polynucleotide that comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

37. (Previously presented) The transformed plant of claim 36, which is a transgenic plant.

38. (Previously presented) The transformed plant of claim 36, which is a transplastomic plant.

39. (Currently amended) A transformed plastid-transformed plant comprising a polynucleotide that comprises a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the complement of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the stringent conditions comprise hybridization in 50% deionized formamide, 6xSSC, 5x Denhardt's, 1% SDS, 100 µg/ml denatured salmon sperm DNA at 42°C, and washing in 0.1xSSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C, and wherein the nucleotide sequence encodes a protein having proteinase inhibitor II activity.

40. (Cancelled).

41. (Cancelled).

42. (Currently amended) The transformed plant of any one of claims ~~30-39~~ 30-33 or 36-39, wherein the plant is a leafy vegetable crop.

43. (Previously presented) The transformed plant of claim 42, wherein the crop is lettuce.

44. (Previously Presented) The transformed plant of claim 43, wherein an endogenous proteinase activity of the transformed lettuce is inhibited.

45. (Previously Presented) The transformed plant of claim 44, wherein the endogenous proteinase activity is a trypsin-like activity or chymotrypsin-like activity.

46. (Original) A transgenic lettuce comprising cells that comprise pSa7.

47. (Original) A transplastomic tobacco comprising cells that comprise pMLVHisP.

48. (Withdrawn) A monoclonal antibody that binds to a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4.

49. (Previously Presented) A recombinant vector comprising: a polynucleotide that comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

50. (Cancelled).

51. (Currently amended) The recombinant vector of claim 49 [[or 50]], further comprising one or more regulatory elements operatively linked to said polynucleotide.

52. (Previously Presented) The recombinant vector of claim 51, wherein the regulatory element is 35S promoter of cauliflower mosaic virus (CaMV 35S).

53. (Original) A recombinant vector which is pSa7.

54. (Original) A recombinant vector which is pMLVHisP.

55. (Currently amended) A recombinant cell comprising the recombinant vector of claim [[50]] 49.

56. (Previously Presented) The recombinant cell of claim 55, wherein the cell is a plant cell.

57. (Previously Presented) The recombinant cell of claim 56, wherein the plant cell is from a plant selected from the group consisting of tomatoes, ginger, scallions, water chestnuts, pepper, eggplant, lettuce, spinach, broccoli, brussels sprouts, calabrese, kale, cauliflower, red cabbage, white cabbage, cucumber, melon, watermelon, zucchini, squash, peas, beans, sweetcorn, carrots, onions, berries, grapes, banana, pineapple, rosaceous fruit and nut crops, tobacco, mango and papaya.

58. (Previously Presented) The recombinant cell of claim 56, wherein the plant cell is from a plant selected from the group consisting of *Anacardium*, *Arachis*, *Asparagus*, *Atropa*, *Avena*, *Brassica*, *Citrus*, *Citrullus*, *Capsicum*, *Carthamus*, *Cocos*, *Coffea*, *Cucumis*, *Cucurbita*, *Daucus*, *Elaeis*, *Fragaria*, *Glycine*, *Gossypium*, *Helianthus*, *Heterocallis*, *Hordeum*, *Hyoscyamus*, *Lactuca*, *Linum*, *Lolium*, *Lupinus*, *Lycopersicon*, *Malus*, *Manihot*, *Majorana*, *Medicago*, *Nicotiana*, *Olea*, *Oryza*, *Panicum*, *Pennisetum*, *Persea*, *Phaseolus*, *Pistachia*, *Pisum*, *Pyrus*, *Prunus*, *Raphanus*, *Ricinus*, *Secale*, *Senecio*, *Sinapis*, *Solanum*, *Sorghum*, *Theobromus*, *Trigonella*, *Triticum*, *Vicia*, *Vitis*, *Vigna*, and *Zea*.